

**FORAGE SUITABILITY GROUP  
WET****FSG No.: G063BY900SD****Major Land Resource Area:** 63B - Southern Rolling Pierre Shale Plains**Physiographic Features**

The soils in this group are found on flood plains and in upland depressions.

	<b><u>Minimum</u></b>	<b><u>Maximum</u></b>
<b>Elevation (feet):</b>	1300	2000
<b>Slope (percent):</b>	0	2
<b>Flooding:</b>		
<b>Frequency:</b>	None	Occasional
<b>Duration:</b>	None	Long
<b>Ponding:</b>		
<b>Depth (inches):</b>	0	6
<b>Frequency:</b>		
<b>Duration:</b>	None	Long
<b>Runoff Class:</b>	Negligible	Medium

**Climatic Features**

This group occurs in a mid-continental climate characterized by wide seasonal temperature and precipitation fluctuations and extremes.

Annual precipitation varies widely from year to year in MLRA 63B. Average annual precipitation for all climate stations listed below is about 22 inches. About 76 percent of the annual precipitation occurs during the months of April through September. On average, there are about 29 days with greater than .1 inches of precipitation during that same timeframe.

Average annual snowfall ranges from 19 inches at Creighton, Nebraska (NE,) to 44 inches at Winner, South Dakota (SD). Snow cover at depths greater than 1 inch range from 4 days at Stephan, SD, to 57 days at Winner.

Average July temperatures across the MLRA are about 76<sup>0</sup>F and average January temperatures are about 17<sup>0</sup>F. Recorded temperature extremes in the MLRA during the years 1961 to 1990 are a low of -37 and a high of 114 both recorded at Kennebec, SD. The MLRA lies in USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 4b and 5a.

The climate data listed in the tables below represent high and low ranges and averages for the climate stations and dates listed. For additional climate data, access the National Water and Climate Center at <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>.

	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
<b>Freeze-free period (28 deg) (days):</b> (9 years in 10 at least)	128	152
<b>Last Killing Freeze in Spring (28 deg):</b> (1 year in 10 later than)	May 20	May 08
<b>Last Frost in Spring (32 deg):</b> (1 year in 10 later than)	Jun 09	May 17
<b>First Frost in Fall (32 deg):</b> (1 year in 10 earlier than)	Sep 01	Sep 21
<b>First Killing Freeze in Fall (28 deg):</b> (1 year in 10 earlier than)	Sep 19	Sep 30
<b>Length of Growing Season (32 deg) (days):</b> (9 years in 10 at least)	92	131
<b>Growing Degree Days (40 deg):</b>	4526	5505
<b>Growing Degree Days (50 deg):</b>	2652	3257
<b>Annual Minimum Temperature:</b>	-25	-15
<b>Mean annual precipitation (inches):</b>	18	25

**Monthly precipitation (inches) and temperature (F):**

2 years in 10:	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
Precip. Less Than	0.06	0.09	0.27	0.66	1.18	1.80	1.24	0.73	0.65	0.55	0.12	0.13
Precip. More Than	0.54	1.24	2.70	3.97	5.70	5.65	4.96	3.94	4.34	2.64	1.49	0.85
Monthly Average:	0.41	0.55	1.56	2.36	3.34	3.54	3.08	2.45	2.13	1.45	0.77	0.56
Temp. Min.	1.3	7.5	18.2	31.1	42.2	52.3	58.2	55.5	44.9	32.8	18.9	6.1
Temp. Max.	32.4	38.6	48.5	62.8	74.0	84.0	91.1	88.9	78.7	66.0	47.7	35.2
Temp. Avg.	18.7	24.4	34.9	48.5	59.6	69.5	75.7	73.5	63.2	51.1	35.2	22.4

<u>Climate Station</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
NE1990	Creighton, NE	1961	1990
NE1365	Butte, NE	1961	1990
SD9367	Winner, SD	1961	1990
SD0778	Bonesteel, SD	1961	1990
SD3452	Gregory, SD	1961	1990
SD7992	Stephan, SD	1961	1990
SD4516	Kennebec, SD	1961	1990

**Soil Interpretations**

This group consists of poorly drained, medium to fine textured soils. They are ponded during a portion of the year or have a seasonal watertable at or near the surface during part of the growing season.

<b>Drainage Class:</b>	Poorly drained	To	Poorly drained
<b>Permeability Class:</b> (0 - 40 inches)	Very slow	To	Very slow
<b>Frost Action Class:</b>	Moderate	To	High

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
<b>Depth:</b>	72	
<b>Surface Fragments &gt;3" (% Cover):</b>	0	0
<b>Organic Matter (percent):</b> (surface layer)	2.0	4.0
<b>Electrical Conductivity (mmhos/cm):</b> (0 - 24 inches)	0	2
<b>Sodium Absorption Ratio:</b> (0 - 12 inches)	0	5
<b>Soil Reaction (1:1) Water (pH):</b> (0 - 12 inches)	5.6	8.4
<b>Available Water Capacity (inches):</b> (0 - 60 inches)	4	10
<b>Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (percent):</b> (0 - 12 inches)	0	18

**Adapted Species List**

The following forage species are considered adapted to grow on the soils in this group. Additional information concerning plant characteristics of a number of the listed species as well as individual cultivars of many of those species can be accessed on the web at <http://plants.usda.gov/>.

**Cool Season Grasses**

Creeping foxtail	G
Reed canarygrass	G
Tall wheatgrass	F
Western wheatgrass	F

**Warm Season Grasses**

Switchgrass	F
-------------	---

**Legumes**

Alsike clover	F
---------------	---

G - Good adaptation for forage production on this group of soils in this MLRA

F - Fair adaptation but will not produce at its highest potential

**Production Estimates**

Production estimates listed here should only be used for making general management recommendations. Onsite production information should always be used for making detailed planning and management recommendations.

The high forage production estimates listed below are based on dense, vigorous stands of climatically adapted, superior performing cultivars. They are properly fertilized for high yields, and pest infestations are kept below economic thresholds. Mechanical harvests are managed to maintain stand life by cutting at appropriate stages of maturity and harvest intervals. If grazed, optimum beginning and ending grazing heights are adhered to. Adequate time is allowed for plant recovery before entering winter dormancy under both uses.

The production estimates listed below represent total annual above ground plant production on an air-dry-matter basis. Estimates of hay and grazing yields can be calculated from these numbers by multiplying them by a harvest efficiency. A 70 percent harvest efficiency is commonly used when converting to hay yields. Pasture harvest efficiency is highly dependent on the grazing management system applied, ranging from 25 to 50 percent.

**Forage Crop****Management Intensity**

	<b><u>High</u></b> <b>(lbs/ac)</b>	<b><u>Low</u></b> <b>(lbs/ac)</b>
Creeping foxtail	6900	3400
Reed canarygrass	8300	4000

**Forage Growth Curves**

Growth curves estimate the seasonal distribution of growth of the various forage crops. They indicate when the forages may be available for grazing or mechanical harvest.

**Growth Curve Number:** SD0001

**Growth Curve Name:** Alfalfa

**Growth Curve Description:** Alfalfa, MLRAs 107, 102B, 63B, 66, 65

**Percent Production by Month**

<b><u>Jan</u></b>	<b><u>Feb</u></b>	<b><u>Mar</u></b>	<b><u>Apr</u></b>	<b><u>May</u></b>	<b><u>Jun</u></b>	<b><u>Jul</u></b>	<b><u>Aug</u></b>	<b><u>Sep</u></b>	<b><u>Oct</u></b>	<b><u>Nov</u></b>	<b><u>Dec</u></b>
0	0	0	5	30	25	20	15	5	0	0	0

**Growth Curve Number:** SD0004  
**Growth Curve Name:** Cool season grass  
**Growth Curve Description:** Cool season grass, statewide

**Percent Production by Month**

<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
0	0	0	10	40	30	10	5	5	0	0	0

**Growth Curve Number:** SD0005  
**Growth Curve Name:** Warm season grass  
**Growth Curve Description:** Warm season grass, statewide

**Percent Production by Month**

<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
0	0	0	0	10	40	35	15	0	0	0	0

**Soil Limitations**

The primary limitation for these soils is wetness, which may severely limit species selection, delay planting and harvesting of forage crops or result in wheeltrack ruts or livestock poach marks from hooves. The result can be soil compaction, injury to plants, poor soil aeration affecting plant growth, and problems with movement of livestock and machinery. Many of the soils in this group are subject to flooding or ponding that will adversely impact forage production when it occurs during the growing season. The time period plants are under water and the soil temperature while it occurs are important for the survival of forage crops. Dormant forages are little affected by inundation unless the water turns to ice.

**Management Interpretations**

When establishing new stands or renovating older stands select species that are tolerant of poorly drained soils. Exclude livestock and machinery during extended periods of soil wetness to reduce poaching, rutting, and soil compaction.

**Inventory Data References**

Agriculture Handbook 296-Land Resource Regions and Major Land Resource Areas  
 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) National Water and Climate Center data  
 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Maps  
 National Soil Survey Information System (NASIS) for soil surveys in South Dakota and Nebraska counties in MLRA 63B  
 South Dakota and Nebraska NRCS Field Office Technical Guides  
 NRCS National Range and Pasture Handbook  
 Various South Dakota and Nebraska Agricultural Research Service, Cooperative Extension Service, and NRCS research trials for plant adaptation and production

**State Correlation**

This site has been correlated with the following states: Nebraska and South Dakota

**Forage Suitability Group Approval**

**Original Author:** Tim Nordquist  
**Original Date:** 4/3/02  
**Approval by:** Dave Schmidt  
**Approval Date:** 9/11/03